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More Abundant

Wildlife

through the

AAA Program

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Division of Information

Wildlife in the AAA

IN the matter of wildlife conservation, the farmer and the resident of town or city meet on common ground. The birds, animals, fish, and even the reptiles, of the forests and fields and of the streams and lakes of America are a source of enjoyment for everybody.

It is significant, however, that while the benefits and pleasure to be derived from our wildlife are for all the people, wherever they live, more than half of the Nation's wildlife exists on privately owned farm, forest, and range lands; and it is estimated that fully 80 per cent of all game harvested is taken from these lands. This means that the biggest part of the work of conserving our national resources of quail, pheasants, doves, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, and many other kinds of valuable game and fur animals must be done by individual farmers—right on their own land.

It means, also, that in order for upland wildlife conservation to succeed it must have the support of a multitude of farmers. The opportunity to make the work effective is provided by the AAA farm program, in which about 6 million farmers participated in 1939.

Wildlife Conservation On the Farm

The AAA farm program has been a conservation program from the very beginning. Land taken out of

Woodcock nesting in natural cover.



Wooded area is home
for shy 'possum.

A Program

production of soil-depleting cash crops has been put mainly into pastures and soil-building legumes. The program also has included provisions for planting forest trees and the establishment of wood lots. New conservation practices have been added to the program as the emphasis on conservation has increased.

The result has been a more diversified agriculture, with more than 50 million acres devoted to soil-conserving crops and practices and a good beginning in the planting of forest trees and establishment of farm wood lots. A large part of this acreage is not disturbed by plow or mower. This has helped conserve and increase the numbers of birds and game animals of many kinds.

While wildlife in the past has benefited to a great extent as an indirect result of conservation practices on the land, practices *aimed explicitly at wildlife conservation* were included in the 1940 AAA program.

How the AAA Helps Wildlife

Payments are available to farmers for practices that help wildlife conservation under the 1940 Agricultural Conservation Program of the AAA. Some of these practices are as follows:

1. Farmers who plant, replant, cultivate, protect, and improve forest trees or mixtures of forest trees and



Robin on nest in
forest tree.



Surprised gray squirrel
in farm wood lot.



shrubs suitable or beneficial for wildlife or for the protection of wildlife may be paid \$3 to \$7.50 per acre.

2. Farmers who seed permanent grasses or permanent pasture mixtures under AAA specifications may be paid \$3 per acre.

3. Farmers who establish a permanent vegetative cover by planting crowns of Kudzu may receive \$6 per acre.

4. Farmers who allow nature to reseed noncrop open pasture by nongrazing during the normal pasture season under AAA specifications may receive \$1.50 per acre.

Practices beneficial to wildlife do not stop with farm lands. Under the AAA range program, grass cover is being protected and improved by deferred grazing and reseeding and by improvement of the water supply. In the 17 range States, over a 3-year period, 130,000 acres have been contour furrowed; approximately 2,400 miles of spreader terraces have been constructed; many thousands of spreader dams have been constructed, involving the moving of $5\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic yards of material; and thousands of tanks and reservoirs for water storage have been created, involving excavation of more than 72 million cubic yards of material. Reports show that increased numbers of game animals and wild fowl are receiving benefits from these range-conservation facilities.

The erosion-control practices that regulate the water run-off from watersheds are distinctly improving lakes and streams for fish.

A number of soil-building practices included in the 1940 program provide food and cover, though such practices were not specifically designated for the conservation of wildlife. In addition, the provisions encour-

Windbreak gives pheasants protection.



aging the establishment of farm wood lots and wind-breaks help wildlife. Such wooded areas, usually with a fringe of brush and berry patches bordering on cultivated land, provide protected breeding places and an ideal source of food.

Benefits To Be Derived From Wildlife

Conservation of wildlife has become an important item for consideration in planning the welfare of entire areas. Farmers realize that upon their methods of handling their lands depends, to a great extent, the fate of our national wildlife resource.

Wildlife on the farm provides recreational and other advantages for the farm family. The harvested game is an economical source of food and adds welcome variety to the diet. Then, too, song birds and other nongame species are of great service in controlling insect pests and in destroying weed seeds. Sometimes a considerable income is derived from the catch of fur-bearing animals, and there are occasional opportunities to sell or lease hunting, trapping, and fishing privileges on the well-stocked farm.

Where To Get More Information

Additional information about the part of wildlife conservation in the AAA program and how this phase of the program applies to an individual farm may be obtained from your county AAA committee.

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Bobwhite on guard in patch of undergrowth. ■

